

Appl. No. : 09/973,844  
Filed : October 9, 2001

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-54 (Canceled)

55. (Currently Amended) A building material, comprising:

a first component, wherein the first component comprises a pre-formed fiber cement layer having a density of between about 53 to 115 lb/ft<sup>3</sup> and a fiber cement content between about 5-12 wt.%;

a second component positioned adjacent the first component, wherein at least a portion of the components forms interpenetrating mechanical and chemical bonding with the other components; and

wherein the fibers of the first component extend in a substantially planar orientation substantially parallel to a surface of the pre-formed fiber cement layer.

56. (Previously Presented) The building material of Claim 55, wherein the first component is reinforced with individualized cellulose fibers, wherein at least a substantial portion of the lignin components are removed from the fiber cell walls.

57. (Previously Presented) The building material of Claim 55, wherein the thickness of the first component is less than about 3/16 inch.

58. (Canceled)

59. (Previously Presented) The building material of Claim 55, wherein the density of the first component is higher than the density of the second component.

60. (Currently Amended) A building material, comprising:

a first component wherein the first component comprises a pre-formed fiber cement layer comprising about 5-12 wt.% cellulose fibers, wherein the cellulose fibers of the first component extend in a substantially planar orientation substantially parallel to a surface of the pre-formed fiber cement layer; and

a second component positioned adjacent the first component, wherein at least a portion of one of the components is bonded to the other component.

61. (Previously Presented) The building material of Claim 60, wherein the second component is made of a curable material.

62. (Previously Presented) The building material of Claim 61, wherein at least a portion of the second component penetrates the pre-formed fiber cement layer so as to form mechanical and chemical bonding therebetween.

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63. (Previously Presented) The building material of Claim 61, wherein at least a portion of the second component extends into the capillary network of the pre-formed fiber cement layer so as to reduce the permeability of the pre-formed fiber cement layer.

64. (Previously Presented) The building material of Claim 60, wherein the second component is fiber reinforced.

65. (Previously Presented) The building material of Claim 60, wherein one of the components at least partially surrounds the other component.

66. (Previously Presented) The building material of Claim 60, further comprising a third component provided adjacent said first component such that the first component is located between the second component and the third component.

67. (Canceled)

68. (Canceled)

69. (Previously Presented) The building material of Claim 60, wherein the fibers contained in the first component are selected from the group consisting of natural inorganic fibers, synthetic fibers, engineered fibers, cellulose fibers, and combinations thereof.

70. (Previously Presented) The building material of Claim 60, wherein the second component is a fire resistive material.

71. (Previously Presented) The building material of Claim 60, wherein the fiber cement of the first component is pressed.

72. (Previously Presented) The building material of Claim 60, wherein the fiber cement of the first component is embossed.

73. (Previously Presented) The building material of Claim 60, further comprising a sub layer between the first component and the second component to improve bonding therebetween.

74. (Previously Presented) The building material of Claim 60, wherein the second component is a lightweight core having a first side and a second side, and the first component is a pre-formed fiber cement facing on at least the first side of the core.

75. (Previously Presented) The building material of Claim 74, wherein the fiber cement facing wraps around both the first side and the second side of the core.

76. (Previously Presented) The building material of Claim 74, wherein the core is open.

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77. (Previously Presented) The building material of Claim 74, wherein the core is homogeneous.

78. (Previously Presented) The building material of Claim 76, wherein the core has a honeycomb configuration.

79. (Previously Presented) The building material of Claim 60, wherein the building material is a single plank.

80. (Previously Presented) The building material of Claim 60, wherein the building material is a trim board.

81. (Previously Presented) A building material, comprising:

at least a first component and a second component provided adjacent said first component, wherein the second component comprises a lightweight core having a first side and a second side, and the first component comprises a pre-formed fiber cement facing on at least the first side of the core, wherein the core includes a plurality of vertical symmetrically opposed corrugated core layers.

82. (Canceled)

83. (Canceled)

84. (Canceled)

85. (Canceled)